

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAMBUR 01714 131641Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05
PRS-01 TRSE-00 /041 W
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R 131506Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4070
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HAMBURG 1714

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV GW
SUBJECT: HAMBURG MAYOR PLANS TO VISIT U.S.

1. FOR SOME YEARS IT HAS BEEN A BANALITY OF GERMAN POLITICS THAT THE CDU HAS MEDIOCRE LEADERSHIP BUT AN EXCELLENT SECOND ESCHELON WHILE WITH THE SDP IT IS THE OTHER WAY ROUND. OR TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, WHILE ONE CAN EASILY FIND HALF A DOZEN PLAUSIBLE SUCCESSORS TO HELMUT KOHL, PLAUSIBLE SUCCESSORS FOR HELMUT SCHMIDT ARE HARDER TO COME BY. THE FIRST MAYOR OF HAMBURG, HANS-ULRICH KLOSE, IS TALENTED ENOUGH TO BE SCHMIDT'S SUCCESSOR AND THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT HE WILL FIGHT TO TAKE OVER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY WHEN IT BECOMES OPPORTUNE TO DO SO.
2. I HAVE HAD SEVERAL SHORT CONVERSATIONS WITH KLOSE, HAVE LISTENED TO TWO ADDRESSES, AND WATCHED HIM HANDLE QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS. HE IS VERY IMPRESSIVE. HE IS INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE IN BOTH GERMAN AND ENGLISH, HAS ENERGY AND HUMOR, IS WELL READ, THOUGHTFUL, AND IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO SEE IN HIM THE STUFF OF A CHANCELLOR.
3. THESE VAGUE IMPRESSIONS WOULD NOT BE WORTH A TELEGRAM WERE IT NOT FOR KLOSE'S INTENTION TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES NEXT APRIL. (DAVID ANDERSON OF CE KNOWS SOMEWHAT IN MORE DETAIL KLOSE'S WISHES IN THIS REGARD.) AS THE DEPARTMENT PUTS TOGETHER HIS SCHEDULE IT MIGHT WELL BEAR IN MIND THAT THE HIGH POINT OF KLOSE'S CAREER MOST PROBABLY LIES AHEAD OF HIM. KISELYAK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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